



Operation FELIX

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR)

The TNR component of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's (AC&C) Operation FELIX is designed to provide an effective solution to the free-roaming cat population problem that exists in Maricopa County. There are several benefits to TNR. Trap, Neuter, Return:

- **Stabilizes the population;**
- **Is more effective and less expensive than attempts at extermination;**
- **Eliminates or reduces annoying behaviors like spraying, yowling and fighting;**
- **Is the humane thing to do.**

What are the alternatives to TNR?

- **Do Nothing** – Eventually the problem will reach unmanageable levels and cause untold suffering.
- **Trap & Kill** – Aside from being inhumane, this approach is not a solution. The problem is everywhere. More cats will move in to fill the void and start the cycle over again.
- **Catch & Tame** – This approach is not realistic. Wild adults cannot be socialized to humans to the point where they are able to find homes as pets. Even if they could be tamed, the time and effort that goes into helping just a few cats is prohibitive.
- **Relocation** – There is no other place for them to go and if you remove them other cats will come to take their place.

Requirements for participation in Operation FELIX:

- 1) Attend a workshop outlining the benefits of TNR and to have your questions answered. Register by calling 602-506-PETS.
- 2) Sign an agreement pledging to perform humane TNR under the rules and regulations specified at the workshop.
- 3) A commitment to working together to humanely solve the problems caused by free-roaming, homeless cats in your community.

Support provided by AC&C:

- \$25 spay/neuter fee versus the minimum \$61 impound/euthanization fee.
- AC&C will assess cats for adoptability. Any cats AC&C believes are tame enough for adoption, will be taken in by AC&C at no charge to the Operation FELIX participant.
- Community volunteers work with AC&C. You will have access to their advice and expertise. If necessary, and where available, you may also have their help with trapping and maintaining a feral cat colony.
- Project Pet Food may provide help for those who cannot afford to feed the cats in the colony.
- Education and literature to help with other issues involving companion animal problems that may present themselves (the benefits of spay/neuter, keep tame cats indoors, etc.).

As a member of Operation FELIX, you will be adding your support to the growing number of individuals and businesses working to solve the free-roaming cat problem in Maricopa County effectively and humanely!

Members of the public who would like to volunteer and work towards this humane solution or who are providing care to a feral colony should call AzCATs at 602-840-9118.

